

The Times-Dispatch.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1903.

SAVE THE STUMPER.

We do not participate in the fears some persons entertain that the pure election's bill is doomed to disaster in the House of Delegates. Our information and belief is that it will be amended there—but not radically—and passed, and that the Senate probably will concur in the amendments.

Mr. Barksdale, the author of the bill, has never claimed that it is perfect, and he has always invited suggestions for its improvement, but he insists, as the public does, that the main object shall be kept in view—that there shall be a sincere purpose to prevent bribery and "short cuts" in elections, and that those who disregard the laws in this respect shall be properly punished.

It has been objected that the Barksdale bill would, or might, prevent the sending out of speakers to address the people upon the political issues of the day—that that would come within the list of monetary expenditures prohibited—yet gentlemen in whose judgment we have great confidence do not construe it that way. They think the party chairman still would have that privilege.

There is a difference between an individual's sending out speakers, or agents, in his own selfish behalf, and the party chairman sending forth "stumpers" in the interest of the public.

Whatever may be done in the other directions, we must not extinguish the stumper. We want him preserved in health and strength to take the "hiss" of the other fellows' fellow and to help make those "red letter days" which are no dearly beloved of newspaper correspondents.

No, the Legislature must not lay its ironclad hand upon the stump speaker. He is an "institution." Whether he originated in Virginia or in the West, he has become part and parcel of our political system, and he wants to talk and the people want to hear him.

To shut his mouth would be a cruelty to him and an outrage upon the Virginia public. Hence we beg our legislators not to tie up party chairmen so that they cannot make expenditures to send stump speakers here and there as they may be needed throughout the State. "The stumper" is the school of the statesman in this part of the country and should not be neglected in this day of educational progress.

Let the pure elections bill, however, go to the farthest practicable limit in the direction of discouraging fraud. That's the point! And there's where we hope it will have close attention and earnest support from members.

In the matter of legalizing primary elections it seems to us that the law to be passed should, as nearly as possible, conform to the general elections law. That would be in the interest of simplicity and, therefore, in the interest of effectiveness. The law should be so plain that every voter may understand it and be able to note every infraction or attempted infraction of it.

We repeat that we expect to see a pure elections law passed, and we entertain the hope that it will be the capstone of the work done by the Constitutional Convention on the suffrage question.

GHARGE OF SENTIMENT.

Our attention is directed by the New York Times to the report of the minority of the Banking and Currency Committee on the currency bill, known as the "Fowler bill." The report is made by Mr. W. J. Talbot (S. C.), and is signed by him and by four other Democratic members of the committee, Messrs. Thayer (Mass.), Lewis (Ga.), Pusey (N. Y.) and Padgett (Tenn.), while Mr. Bartlett (Ga.) concurs in the main. The report begins with a very practical and scorching criticism of our present National bank currency as defective and inflexible, predicated upon an inadequate banking principle, and declares that the bank currency system of the country should not rest solely upon a government debt represented by bonds. Such an arrangement is condemned as mischievous in two directions; the tendency is to contract the currency when bonds are high and currency is most needed and to inflate it when bonds are low and the legitimate business of the country does not demand an increase. The report continues with the following forcible and reasonable statement:

"These we consider improper banking conditions, and the currency of the country should not be predicated solely upon such conditions. We believe that the banks of the country, under proper and wise legislation, safeguarded as to assets, are a sound and solvent currency, and the agents and instrumentalities to issue the currency of the country, and we further believe that the legislation should be so framed as to permit the issuance of an amount of currency at all times adequate and sufficient for the business needs of the country, and which would be required when not needed for the transaction of legitimate business."

This is most interesting, and to us most gratifying, as indicating a decided change in sentiment on the part of Southern Democrats on the currency question. The National bank system has been the curse of the South and is responsible for all our woes in this direction. We have abundant bankable assets in the South, and the banks could easily supply all the currency needed if they were not prevented by the government from doing so.

The National banking system is not adapted to the needs of the South, yet under the prohibitory tax on the issues of State banks these have not been able to issue currency, and the Southern people have been compelled to rely upon the financial centers to get money from time to time to move their crops and carry on their business.

No wonder the Southern people a few years ago were in favor of the free coinage of silver, for that seemed to offer the only remedy for the currency famine. Many men who were in doubt on the question of free coinage advocated it on the plea that it was the only remedy that had been offered and that some remedy for the evil was imperative. We firmly believe that if there had been no prohibitory tax on State bank issues, if the banks of the South had been left free to issue currency under proper restrictions, there had been no free silver agitation, for there had been no occasion for it.

THE SAME EVERYWHERE.

On Sunday last the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, of New York, announced that at the Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting there would be an address by a negro missionary, and in making the announcement said:

"Even at this day, so long after the proclamation of emancipation, there is in many parts of the South a condition of veritable slavery. Although we claim to be a civilized people, there is a degree of barbarism in our treatment of the black race that is not excused in any part of the world. And although we send out missionaries to Christianize other lands, there are communities in the South as un-Christian as any part of heathendom."

A Southerner who happened to be in the church at the time arose and politely informed Dr. Parkhurst that he was mistaken as to the situation in the South. The negroes were treated properly, he asserted, and no credence was to be given to the sensational reports of their systematic ill-treatment.

Dr. Parkhurst asked him about the "Grandfather Clause" in the Constitutions of some of the Southern States, and again asked him about lynchings, the Southerner making courteous replies, but standing up manfully for his people.

On that very day attempts were made in four different Pennsylvania towns to lynch a negro who had committed an assault upon a white child. The story is told by a correspondent of the Philadelphia Record, writing from Taylorsville, Pa. After the negro was captured and when the constable arrived to take him away a large crowd of people congregated, threatening vengeance. The constable secured a guard and started to the town with the negro, intending to bring him to the county jail at Taylorsville.

The rest of the story is told by the correspondent. We quote:

"The officers with the prisoner in their midst, and with drawn revolvers, fought their way through the crowd and succeeded in getting the man about the middle of the street. A mob of 200 men had gathered with a rope, determined to lynch the man, but the car doors were locked and an officer stood at each entrance with a revolver, and the crowd was crowded.

"Jefferson was taken off at Taylorsville in order that he might be identified. Here, also, the officers were compelled to fight their way through the crowd, and finally reached the Conger residence.

"As they entered the house Dr. Conger sprang in front of the negro with a drawn revolver and discharged the weapon at the covering negro. An officer knocked his arm up and the shot whizzed through the air, within a few inches of Jefferson's face. Conger was then held until he identified the man, when he was again placed on board the train and brought here this evening.

"A crowd had gathered here, but there was no great demonstration, and the negro was safely landed in jail, followed up the streets by a hooting, threatening mob of people.

"The negro had to be carried the last few blocks, as he was completely overcome with terror. An extra guard has been placed on the jail here, as a demonstration by the residents of Taylorsville is expected."

We wonder if Dr. Parkhurst will refer to this incident at the prayer-meeting service this evening. Why did he not refer to the numerous race riots that have occurred in New York city within the past year or two? In some of these riots assaults were made upon negroes simply because they were negroes, and it was all the police could do to keep the blacks from being torn to pieces by the mob.

We do not justify or excuse lynching. We do not believe in mob law, but it arouses our indignation when Northern men try to make it appear that the South is worse in this respect than the North. There are more race clashes in the South than in the North for the reason that there are more negroes in the South, but wherever there is a large collection of negroes in any Northern community there the race question exists and there the bad negro is summarily punished by the indignant whites, whenever he goes on the rampage.

Dr. Parkhurst and those like him, who consider these facts, should also ask themselves the question why it is, if they are treated so much worse in the South than in the North, that the negroes do not pick themselves up in a body and move into Northern territory?

An interesting story comes from Petersburg to the effect that a member of the Council who has been useful has decided to retire because of criticism. He says that he does not mind the work, but he has been called a liar and a thief, and otherwise abused by the dear public, and he has grown tired of the thankless job. There is a lesson in this to the dear public. Many good men, doubtless, refuse to serve in the Council for that reason. No pay is attached to the office and if a

Councilman does his duty he has plenty of work to do. But if he receives no pay and no thanks, and gets nothing but harsh criticism and abuse for his services, it is not strange that sensitive men should shun the position. Of course, public officials are proper subjects of criticism, but there is a decent way to do everything, and when an honest Councilman does what he believes to be right, the public should be very careful how they criticize.

In the Boston Globe of last Sunday George Alfred Townsend says:

"Sixty-two is more talked about than observed. A New Yorker was talking in my presence about there being no statue of DeWitt Clinton in the city that he almost created. I told him that a large and important statue of Clinton was in Greenwood Cemetery, erected by the public, and that it resembled the German poet, Goethe.

"So when they are talking at Richmond, Va., about putting Robert E. Lee in the Capitol he threatened, but never took, few of them know that Lee is already there. He was painted by Brumidi in the eye of the dome in the group of 'Anarchy,' which consists of Davis, Lee, Jackson, Stephens and Calhoun, all carrying torches and looking like cartoons of Milton."

If that is true, it is a disgrace to the nation, and it seems to us that it is time for some patriotic member of Congress to rise in his seat and protest.

As we said the other day, when General Pettus was re-elected to the United States Senate from Alabama, that State has in the Senate the two oldest members of the body. There are, however, several others who have passed the three-score and ten notch. The following list, with the date of their birth, shows who are the old men of the Senate:

1831—Pettus, of Alabama.
1834—Morgan, of Alabama.
1836—Jones, of Nevada; Teller, of Colorado; Vest, of Missouri.
1837—Piatt, of Connecticut; Stewart, of Nevada.
1838—Cullom, of Illinois; Allison, of Iowa.
1839—Jones, of Nevada; Teller, of Colorado; Vest, of Missouri.
1841—Proctor, of Vermont; Frye, of Maine.

Nearly all of these Senators have served longer than General Pettus, and the probability is that all, or the most of them, as well as the Alabamian, will remain in the Senate as long as they live.

An esteemed contemporary down South is tangled up on the prosperity question, and which ever way he looks he finds trouble in it. "Complaints," says this troubled contemporary, "are coming in from all sides that while the general rise in prices has carried such necessities as food and clothing up to a point where it may soon become too expensive to live, some other commodities connected with the burial have grown so costly that poor persons cannot afford to die."

A distinguished physician, with a penchant for investigating things, claims to have distilled from pine leaves an essence most soothing to consumptive lungs. He thinks he will be able by this discovery to send the halm of the pine forests to those who for any cause find it impossible to visit those life-giving sections.

The despised pine has already been furnishing us with resin, tar and pitch that have proven valuable in various ways, and now it seems that we are to find in it the long looked for cure for consumption.

We have written line upon line in advocacy of a civil improvement association in this city; or, as we have put it, a society for the promotion of public cleanliness and public ornamentation. We are glad to hear that a movement is now on foot to organize such an association. It is a noble movement, and we hope it will succeed. It will succeed if the ladies of the city will take hold of it.

The member of the Legislature who objects to the Barksdale pure elections bill because "it is an insinuation that there has been crooked work in former elections," is simply too pure and innocent to bump up against this wicked old world.

Senator Wellington's proposed law to limit individual fortunes to ten million dollars will not apply to newspaper paragraphists. They will be allowed to go right on and make a hundred million if they want to.

If we mistake not, the evidence so far brought out before the Anthracite Commission would make a Virginia jury bring in a verdict against the operators, the miners and the railroads.

In New York the other day a girl got a verdict for \$7,000 for the loss of her hand. That seems high, but there are many girls in New York whose hands are worth far more than that—in matrimony.

They are talking about cutting a new State out of parts of Montana and North Dakota and naming it Montague. The name is all right if there are any people in that region, but we would have to have the name stuck on a pocket borough.

Mr. Bryan is going to Baltimore to deliver a lecture, and while he is there he will try his hand at harmonizing the warring Democrats of that city—a tough job.

Dr. Parkhurst has resumed business in New York, and his daily eruptions furnish all the volcano news the sensational papers want.

Utah is legislating against the hoboes. Its Legislature has just passed an act making October 1st "soap and water day."

King Edward can't have a mild attack of influenza without the London market setting a case of indigestion.

It is said that Senator Hanna has dropped Addicks and is now wondering what in the world he ever picked him up for.

The Sultan seems to be consoled by the cable dispatches from the Moroccan seat of war.

With a Comment or Two.

Some politicians are like the proverbial ground-hog—afraid to see their shadow. Frederick Douglass was a brave man. And sometimes life when no shadow pursueth.

The Charlotte Observer makes the very good point that "it is amazing how much

public sentiment there is in South Carolina against carrying pistols and how little against their use." And this kind of thing is not peculiar to South Carolina.

So far Aguinaldo's banding scheme does not seem to have taken the country by storm—Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

The best thing to do with the Baxter St. Louis Exposition appropriation is to pass it. Congress cannot afford not to be represented at St. Louis next year—Nashville American.

Certainly not. Geographically and ethnically Tennessee should be right by Virginia's side at the St. Louis show.

In denying a rumor that he would accept a place on the United States District Court bench, Senator Bacon, of Georgia, declares that he would not abandon the position of senator from Georgia to accept any office under the government. There are a good many other statesmen in and out of the Senate who would not do that.

This seems to mean, read between the lines, to serve notice on Georgia that Mr. Bacon intends to stay in the Senate as long as Georgia is willing.

If "Goose-neck" bill could only get anyone else to take him as seriously as he takes himself, he might yet become a formidable figure in Republican politics in Texas—Houston Post.

"Goose-neck" Bill is the Texas statesman of color, who poses as Mr. Roosevelt's advisor when Federal offices for Texas are to be disposed of.

Personal and General.

The fifteenth anniversary of Archbishop Ryan's ordination next September will be observed by a jubilee celebration arranged for by the clergy of the archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Andrew Lang, the English author, will visit the United States this year. He will visit St. James, Stevenson's old home. Lang having been very intimate with the novelist.

Admiral Lang, accompanied by Col. and Mrs. A. K. McClure, of Philadelphia, 1889—Hoar, of Massachusetts; Hawley, of Connecticut.
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An Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Roanoke World voices the views of all the Southland in the following: Senator Depong, when he said in the Senate Saturday that the time would come when the only persons connected with our late Civil War who would be remembered were Grant, Lee and Lincoln, would have been much nearer the mark to say: "This last is 'one of the immortal names that were not born to die.'"

The Augusta Argus says: Will some newspaper expert go searching for the brains of the Governor of Pennsylvania who reproached Andrew Carnegie for scattering in other States the money he made from the State of Pennsylvania? wealth had not passed into Pennsylvania from the rest of the world. Mr. Carnegie's broad munificence would have been an impossibility.

The Fredericksburg Star is getting annoyed to say: "The true that more men were killed and wounded before breakfast on the skirmish line in the war of 1861-65 than fell in all the battles of the Spanish embroilment; making was not in it then. The lecture field was not then so profitable as now; people did not want to hear the sad story, even from the lips of one of the heroes. This thing goes on in the next war we have must prepare in advance for the heroes."

The Fredericksburg Free Lance never lets up on the good roads question. Here is his latest:

Is there not sentiment enough in this section of Virginia to start a movement for decent roads? We believe there is, but there seems to be no one who is willing to take the lead. Lancaster county has held a convention and a movement is well under way looking toward the building of good roads. Let the people of this section take like action and give to this part of Virginia highways of which they need not feel ashamed.

The Newport News Press has been working on signs and wonders, and has reached this conclusion:

The yellowish color of the water near the river's head at this time of the year does not justify calling the stream the Sunny Jim.

The Newport News Times-Herald says: Jim Hayes has not yet reached the zenith of his fame, as no theatrical agent has yet made him a proposition for an engagement.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

A True Picture.

The bulls and bears furnish the excitement in the wheat pit, while the donkeys who throw the bucket shops carry the bag.

The Only Course.

Hopetful Hamkins—De-jeddy new door give me some angel cake. Could you help me a little?
Mrs. Stomach—Sure. The doctor lives on the second floor, three blocks down—Chicago Daily News.

Down South.

Blue skies
And true skies
Way down South;
Clear fields
And fair fields
Way down South.
Then give your show to get
In the bright and bracing weather,
Go singing all together,
Way down South!
—Frank Stanton in Constitution.

Lost His Job.

First Printer—Not working now, eh?
Second Printer—Yes, fired. Proprietor's wife sent in a poem entitled "Dolly's Dimples." I'd had a cough on the night before and I couldn't set it up any way but "Dolly's Dimples" to save my life. Done of something doing, do you?—Baltimore American.

A Marvel.

"What do you think is the most extraordinary invention of the age?"
The phonograph," answered Mr. Meekton, promptly, "the way that machine stands and talks back to Henrietta positively takes my breath away."—Washington Star.

The Ruling Passion.

"He was a liar to the last," said the editor.
"He was."
"Yes; swore he would die with his boots on, and they lynched him in slippers!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Small Loophole.

The Court—Have you any defense to this charge of blackmailing?
Defendant—Sure, Judge! He lies when he says I demanded money. I told 'im a certified check w'd do.

More Needed.

There's room at the top, ay, room for more.
Philosophers declare,
But the mob must be more at the bottom.
The greater number's there.—Philadelphia Press.

Skori Talks to the Legislature.

Charlottesville Progress: The Barksdale "pure elections bill" ought to be carried over to the next session, by an almost unanimous vote, but has been "help up" in the House. What is the matter? The people of the State and the press of the State are earnestly in favor of it. And the House of Delegates that are attempting to thwart the pronounced public sentiment of the State?

Norfolk Standard: It is hardly necessary to say that the efficiency of the Corporation Commission will depend very much upon the efficiency and independence of its chief technical adviser; but this reminds us to warn the Legislature against putting the secretary's compensation so low that no man of the required caliber could afford to accept the place. Either the secretary of the commission will have to be paid good living wages, or he will not be equal to his responsibilities.

Up-to-date Chicago.

Chicago is to have a teacher who will teach its people to eat horse meat unconcerned in sausages and canned goods. Open plain horse meat is quite different from horse meat by the underground route.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Trend of Thought In Dixie Land.

Augusta Chronicle: Congress must leave the Inter-State Commerce Commission. The Senate and the Department of Commerce and Labor would be to fairly impair it.

Charlestown Post: Rivers upon horrors are related in the press dispatches these days. Yesterday there were two dreadful train wrecks, two of minor account and a severe boiler explosion reported in our dispatches. The death list of the day's accidents is a sorry one. A runaway sweep will be about forty and the injury probably 150. We are paying heavy toll for the rush and hurry of our modern life.

Atlanta Journal: We hear of the Olney boom, the Parker boom, the Hill boom and the Gorman boom almost every day; but, fortunately, there has been no recurrence of the Bryan boom of late.

Montgomery Advertiser: If that Indiana affair is to come up for ventilation or discussion in the Senate, the remarks that Senator Carmack is expected to make will render any other method of heating the senate chamber unnecessary.

Chattanooga Times: There is no rejoicing over the election of Mr. Tillam, to succeed himself as governor of Colorado. Neither party has any use for a politician with such a record as this man has made.

Nashville Banner: President Roosevelt's oration on McKinley was a splendid tribute to a great man's memory. What a pity the President cannot confine his talents to this broad and sane manner of treating subjects instead of dissipating them in a way that angers the people.

The Peddler's License Tax. Editor of the Times-Dispatch:

Sir—If there ever was a law enacted to the disadvantage of the poor and middle classes, it is the unreasonable and unbusiness-like law which places the tax of a retail peddler of fruits, vegetables, poultry and produce of all kinds on the streets of Richmond on a one-horse wagon at \$50 a year to the State and \$10 to the city, making a total of \$60.

These peddlers sell on an average of \$5 worth of marketing a day, most of which is sold direct to the class of people who cannot pay the average price for such produce, fruits, etc., charged by the green grocers and market hucksters.

It is not my intention to champion the cause of the peddler, but it is my desire to see any and all kind of necessities and luxuries placed in the reach of the poor people, as well as in the reach of the more fortunate, "from a financial standpoint."

Who had this high prohibitory law passed? The retail grocers and market hucksters. Why did they want such a law passed? Simply for protection to their business. How does it protect the retail dealers? By keeping the peddlers out of the market, thus cutting them (the retail dealers) to charge and get such profits on their goods as they may see fit. The peddler does business in a different manner from most retail dealers. He buys large quantities of fruit, vegetables, chickens, eggs, etc., at a reasonable cash price and then starts out immediately to sell their marketing from door to door to the class of people who as a rule should have the benefit of the lowest prices. The enforcement of this statute, backed up by the new Constitution of the State, will bring to all of our freeways peace and contentment.

It must be remembered that the Democratic party of Virginia has never failed to give good government to the State. Major John P. R. Cooke, judge of the County Courts for the counties of Warwick and Elizabeth City, said that if the devil came into his court he should have justice. Yes, and what was true in regard to the pure and impartial administration of justice in his court is true as to the other courts of Virginia. The rights of the black people in Virginia, in her courts, are carefully respected and protected.

I am a black lawyer, respected by both County, Circuit or Corporation Courts almost every day, with almost as much business as anybody else since 1882 to attend to and have failed to see any injustice done to any one. So well satisfied am I with the administration of the government by the Democrats that I don't want to see any change.

Why there is such a fight made against the new Constitution of the State I know not. To my mind, if this instrument is let alone, it will result in greater good to the black people than to the white people. I am not, however, intended, but a close inspection of the same will show that I am not wrong. Long before the adoption of the new Constitution I ceased to vote, because every Tom, Dick and Harry were on a level with me voting. But as soon as the new instrument was put before the people, I registered and voted, and have ever since felt like a bird out of a dirty cage from long imprisonment. I am sorry it brings about the abolition of the County Courts. Still, everything will work out right. Most of the black people fight an instrument because it makes us more intelligent and owners of property? This instrument has been in force only a few days, but has done more good for us than any other. It has happened since then that the rights of the black people are better protected than ever before.

The great trouble with us is this: We will not save our money; and, as a general thing, persons who have no money are not respected, be they white or black. Where is all this prejudice said to be on the part of the white people against the colored people? The fact that we are here and doing well is conclusive evidence to my mind that they are our friends, because if they should say to us "go," we would be driven out of existence like the dry leaves of autumn, scattered by a mighty wind. My wife and children are all here and are natives of Virginia; all of my property, both real and personal, is here in Virginia. Therefore, I want all this foolishness to stop, and stop now, or else the statute here mentioned will be put into full force and effect. If a black man cannot live in Virginia he can live nowhere else. I regard Virginia as being the cream of the world and the garden-spot of creation.